

## CLAIMS

1. A determining method that performs a determination with regard to reusability of refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or refrigerant lines (9), the  
5 method comprising:

a first step in which residual material that remains inside the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9) is applied to a check tool (30); and

a second step in which a determination with regard to reusability of the  
10 refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9) is performed based upon a color of the check tool (30) on which the residual material was applied.

2. The method of determining the reusability of refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 1, wherein the check tool (30)  
15 includes a first means (33) on which the residual material will be applied, and second means (31, 32) that display a reference color that is a determination reference;

the residual material is applied to the first means (33) in the first step;  
and

20 a color of the first means (33) is compared to the reference color of the second means (31, 32) to perform a determination in the second step.

3. The method of determining the reusability of refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 2, wherein the second means (31, 32) of the check tool (30) displays a plurality of reference colors.

25 4. The method of determining the reusability of refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 3, wherein the second means (31, 32) of the check tool (30) displays a normal color that indicates that cleaning is unnecessary when using the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9), and a boundary color that indicates the boundary at which

cleaning is necessary when using the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9).

5. The method of determining the reusability of refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 3, wherein the second means of the check tool displays a first boundary color that is a reference for determining whether or not there is a need to clean the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9), and the second boundary color is a reference for determining whether or not it is possible to use the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9).

6. The check tool (30) that is used with the method of determining the reusability of the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9) disclosed in any of claims 2 to 5, comprising:

wherein the first means (33) and the second means (31, 32) are disposed near each other and are unitary.

7. The method of determining the reusability of refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 1, wherein the check tool is a pH analysis tool that changes color by means of an acid or an alkali;

the residual material is applied to the pH analysis tool in the first step; and

in the second step, the degree of degradation of the residual material is estimated from the color of the pH analysis tool to perform the determination.